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Familiar Face Becomes Mount Rushmore's Next Chief of Interpretation

Superintendent Gerard Baker announced today that Judy Olson is the new Chief of Interpretation for Mount Rushmore National Memorial. "Judy's 12 years of experience at Mount Rushmore and her enthusiasm for interpreting the Memorial's history make her the perfect fit for the job," said Baker. "Judy's appointment marks the beginning of a new chapter for the interpretation and education program at the Memorial."

Born and raised in Lemmon, South Dakota, Olson moved to the Black Hills in 1979 and started working for the National Park Service seasonally as a fee collector at Badlands National Park in 1989. After obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Tourism from Black Hills State University in 1992, Olson worked as a Park Ranger/Interpreter under a temporary appointment at Mount Rushmore. In 1995, Olson started her first permanent job with the National Park Service as the Education Coordinator for Mount Rushmore until being promoted to Assistant Chief of Interpretation for the Memorial in 2002.

"It's an honor and a privilege to help provide Mount Rushmore visitors with a rewarding experience," said Olson. "By telling the various stories of the Memorial, we provide visitors with the opportunity to appreciate the many resources of Mount Rushmore and the surrounding area."

Judy Olson lives in Rapid City with her husband Dennis and have two grown children. Their son, Darin, lives in Sheridan, Wyoming and their daughter, Kristin, lives in Austin, Texas.